

4 February 1986  
OCA: 86-0317

GAO

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: GAO Briefing on International Natural Gas Contingency  
Planning - 3 February 1986

1. On Monday, 3 February 1986 in Room 6D49 Headquarters, GAO staffers Thomas Flaherty and Gregory Booth were briefed by two members [redacted] of the OGI/Strategic Resources Division/Energy Markets Branch. GAO is following up a study published in May 1983 entitled, "European Alternatives to Supporting Soviet Natural Gas." They had also met with CIA representatives at that time.

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2. The briefing began with the consensus that natural gas is a difficult topic to discuss at this time because of falling prices. (Nevertheless, the briefing lasted for two hours!)

3. International Energy Agency (IEA) studies were discussed. A country-by-country rundown was given on their natural gas situation, focusing particular attention on negotiations between Greece and Turkey, France and Algeria, Turkey and the Soviet Union, and Japan and Indonesia.

4. The Soviet use of gas as a means of foreign policy against the West was noted. Also noted was the importance of gas to Soviet hard currency earnings. GAO asked what procedures would need to be implemented in order for the Soviet pipeline to change from gas to diesel.

5. Briefly discussed were the spot gas supplies in Europe and gas figures for individual countries.

6. GAO requested any CIA publications which might be helpful to them in their study. Our briefers noted the fact that since they were advised that only publications classified Confidential and below could be provided GAO, they would not have anything available. The undersigned said she would check to see if indeed Secret publications could be provided, since GAO commented that such publications had been provided when doing the 1983 study.

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[redacted]  
Executive Officer  
Office of Congressional Affairs

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